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LETTER DATED 31 MAY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Security Council is soon to conduct its first review of the provisions of Security Council resolution 687 on imports by Iraq. The resolution requires it to do so in the light of the policies and practices of the Government of Iraq. In advance of this review I am writing on instructions from my Government to inform you of our deep concern over Iraq's treatment of two British nationals, Mr. Douglas Brand and Mr. Ian Richter, both held in Iraq.

Mr. Douglas Brand has recently been sentenced to life imprisonment for espionage. He was detained in September while trying to flee Iraq, where he was being held as a hostage under Iraq's illegal human shield policy. The British Government was not informed of his detention nor given consular access to him until April this year. His trial before an Iraqi revolutionary court was wholly inadequate.

Iraq is in clear contravention of Security Council resolutions 664, 674 and 686, which were reaffirmed by Security Council resolution 687, in respect of Mr. Brand. These resolutions call for the release of third country nationals detained after 2 August 1990. Iraq is also in flagrant violation of its obligations under international law in its treatment of Mr. Brand.

Mr. Ian Richter was sentenced in 1987 to life imprisonment on corruption charges which he has always denied. The British Government has protested many times about the inadequate nature of his trial, which did not meet the requirements of Iraq's international obligations, including those under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. We believe that he should also be set free.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) D. H. A. HANNAY